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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Robert BENNETT, Brian J E SMITH

Application No.: US National Stage of PCT/GB01/00170

Filed: September 12, 2001

Docket No.: 110597

For: SPECTROSCOPIC PROBE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 15 and 16 as follows:

3. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

5. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 3, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

6. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1, wherein said ports comprise lenses.

11. (Amended) A component according to claim 9, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein an opposing face of the sheet is also coated with a reflecting or partially reflecting coating, prior to the cutting step, thereby producing a second angled face with a said coating in the resulting component, opposing the first-mentioned angled face.

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16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12, including the step of removing a prism-shaped section from the angled face of the block.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 3, 5, 6, 11, 15 and 16 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Respectfully submitted,



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Attached: APPENDIX

Date: September 12, 2001

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

The following are marked-up versions of the amended claims:

3. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein at least one of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

5. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

6. (Amended) A spectroscopic probe according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said ports comprise lenses.

11. (Amended) A component according to claim 9 ~~or claim 10~~, wherein the other of said angled faces has a reflecting or partially reflecting coating.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~, wherein an opposing face of the sheet is also coated with a reflecting or partially reflecting coating, prior to the cutting step, thereby producing a second angled face with a said coating in the resulting component, opposing the first-mentioned angled face.

16. (Amended) A method according to claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~, including the step of removing a prism-shaped section from the angled face of the block.

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